

Application No. 09/536,27

Amendment dated December 17, 2003 (accompanying RCE)

Reply to Final office Action dated September 25, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace Page 8, lines 20 through page 9 lines 12 with the following amended paragraphs:

C1
Referring now to Figure 1, Earth 10 is shown having prior known type of systems. These systems include a geostationary (GSO) orbit 12 that has a GSO satellite [[22]] 14. The GSO orbit 12 is a circular orbit at the equatorial plane. In a geostationary orbit, the satellite [[22]] 14 travels above the Earth's equator, in the same direction as that in which the Earth is rotating, and at the same angular velocity, appears stationary relative to a point on the Earth. These satellites are always "in view" at all locations within their service areas, so their utilization efficiency is effectively 100 percent. Antennas at Earth ground stations need be aimed at a GSO satellite only once; no tracking system is required. GSO satellite [[22]] 14 is positioned at about 35,000 kilometers above Earth 10.

Earth 10 is also shown with a medium earth orbit (MEO) satellite [[12]] 20 that has a medium earth orbit 20 and a low earth orbit satellite [[20]] 21 with a low earth orbit 22. A MEO orbit altitude may range from about 10,000 km to about 20,000 km. A low earth orbit satellite system (not illustrated) is typically, deployed at an altitude below 1,500 km. Typically, several satellites are employed to form a system MEO or LEO system. MEO systems typically have 15 or greater satellites while LEO systems may have many times that number.